

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of operating a server machine to perform server actions, the method comprising:

storing, at a location accessible to said server machine, a template having pre-defined user data for use in performing server actions, wherein the template includes

a field, and a plurality of fields,

attribute data associated with the field, each of the fields, and

previously entered user data associated with at least one field of said plurality,

wherein the attribute data indicates whether it is necessary to obtain information to complete the a corresponding field from users of the template;

receiving a request from a client machine for performance of a server action using the template; and

in response to the request, performing a server action using the template wherein the step of performing the server action includes, for each of the fields of said plurality:

determining from the attribute data whether it is necessary to obtain information to complete the field;

if it is not necessary to obtain information to complete the field, then performing the server action without obtaining information from the client machine to complete the field, said performing the server action without obtaining information from the client machine includes, for the at least one field, using the previously entered user data to complete the at least one field; and

if it is necessary to obtain information to complete the field, then obtaining information from the client machine to complete the field prior to performing the server action.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of, prior to storing the template, producing the template based on user input received from a second client machine

that is different from said client machine.

3. (original) The method of Claim 2 wherein
the step of producing the template includes:
 - receiving user input that indicates that said field is editable, and
 - receiving user input that specifies a candidate value for said field; and

the step of obtaining information from the client machine includes:
 - transmitting the candidate value to said client machine; and
 - receiving a signal from said client machine that indicates that said candidate value is to be used for said field during said server action.
4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the second client machine includes a display and keyboard that are not part of the client machine.
5. (original) The method of claim 4 in which the display and keyboard are part of a workstation or personal computer that communicates with the server machine through a network.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 in which the network is an Internet.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the client machine is machine from a set that consists of a portable telephone and a personal digital assistant.
8. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the server action is creation of a message.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 in which the field one of the plurality of fields is an address field.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein:
the address field is a to-address field;
the template further includes a message type item of data indicating whether the message

is a reply to an existing message;

the method further comprises, performing the following steps if it is not necessary to obtain information to complete the to-address field:

determining from the message type item of data whether the message is a reply; and

if the message is a reply, then automatically extracting an address from the existing message to complete the to-address field.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein:

the at least one field includes the to-address field;

~~the template further previously entered user data~~ includes an address item of data indicating an address; and

the method further comprises the step of using the address item of data to complete the to-address field if the message is not a reply.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 in which ~~the field one of the plurality of fields~~ is a subject field.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 wherein:

the template further includes a message type item of data indicating whether the message is derived from an existing message;

the method further includes performing the following steps if it is not necessary to obtain information to complete the subject field:

determining from the message type item of data whether the message is derived from an existing message; and

if the message is derived from an existing message, automatically extracting a subject from the existing message to complete the subject field.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein:

the at least one field includes the subject field;

~~the template further previously entered user data~~ includes a subject item of data indicating

a subject;

the method further comprises the step of using the subject item of data to complete the subject field if the message is not derived from an existing message.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein:
the at least one field is a includes a body field;
the template further previously entered user data includes a body item of data indicating a message body; and
the method further comprises the step of using the body item of data to complete the body field if it is not necessary to obtain information to complete the field.

16. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the server action is scheduling an appointment.

17. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the server action is submission of a database query.

18. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the attribute data includes a flag bit indicating whether it is necessary to obtain information to complete the field.

19. (currently amended) A method of performing server actions that require user input, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, at a location accessible to a server machine, a plurality of user-defined templates associated with a plurality of server actions that the server machine can perform, each of said templates includes a plurality of fields, attribute data associated with each of the fields, and previously entered user data associated with at least one field of said plurality of fields;

receiving, from a client machine, a request to perform a particular server action of said plurality of server actions;

determining, from said plurality of templates, a set of templates that are associated with said particular server action;

transmitting to said client machine information that allows a user of said client machine to

select a particular template in said set of templates;
receiving, from the client machine, a signal that selects said particular template; and
performing said particular server action using previously entered user data from said
particular template as at least a portion of the user input required for said particular server action.

20. (currently amended) A method of performing server actions, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving first user input for a template;
~~storing said template at a location accessible to a server machine, said template includes previously entered user data to serve as input data for one or more fields requiring input for performance of a server action;~~
after said template has been stored, receiving from a client machine a request to perform a server action that requires user input for a plurality of fields;
receiving a signal from said client machine that indicates whether to use said template to perform said server action;
if said signal indicates to use said template to perform said server action, then performing said server action using said ~~first user input~~ previously entered user data as user input for one or more of said plurality of fields;
if said signal indicates to not use any template to perform said server action, then performing the steps of:
requesting user input for said plurality of fields from said client machine; and
performing said server action using user input received from said client machine for said plurality of fields.

21. (currently amended) The method of Claim 20 wherein:
the step of receiving first user input includes receiving a candidate value for a first field of said plurality of fields, said previously entered user data includes said candidate value;
the method further includes performing the following steps when said signal indicates to use said template to perform said server action:
transmitting to said client machine said candidate value; and
causing said client machine to provide to a user of said client machine an option

of selecting said candidate value as the user input to use for said first field during performance of said server action.

22. (currently amended) The method of Claim 20 wherein the step of performing said server action using said first user input previously entered user data as user input for one or more of said plurality of fields includes performing said server action using a portion of said first user input previously entered user data as user input for one of said plurality of fields without transmitting said portion of said first user input previously entered user data to said client machine.

23. (currently amended) The method of Claim 20 wherein:

the step of receiving first user input for the template includes receiving user input that designates, for each of said plurality of fields, whether the field is editable; and

the step of performing said server action using said first user input previously entered user data as user input for one or more of said plurality of fields includes

using said first user input previously entered user data for the fields of said plurality of fields that are not designated editable; and

sending to said client machine requests for user input for the fields of said plurality of fields that are designated editable.

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for performing server actions, the instructions including instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving first user input for a template;

storing said template at a location accessible to a server machine, said template includes previously entered user data to serve as input data for one or more fields requiring input for performance of a server action;

after said template has been stored, receiving from a client machine a request to perform a server action that requires user input for a plurality of fields;

receiving a signal from said client machine that indicates whether to use said template to perform said server action;

if said signal indicates to use said template to perform said server action, then performing

said server action using said ~~first user input~~ previously entered user data as user input for one or more of said plurality of fields;

if said signal indicates to not use any template to perform said server action, then performing the steps of:

requesting user input for said plurality of fields from said client machine; and

performing said server action using user input received from said client machine for said plurality of fields.

25. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 24 wherein:
the step of receiving first user input includes receiving a candidate value for a first field of said plurality of fields, said previously entered user data includes said candidate value;
the computer-readable medium further includes instructions for performing the following steps when said signal indicates to use said template to perform said server action:

transmitting to said client machine said candidate value; and

causing said client machine to provide to a user of said client machine an option of selecting said candidate value as the user input to use for said first field during performance of said server action.

26. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 24 wherein the step of performing said server action using said ~~first user input~~ previously entered user data as user input for one or more of said plurality of fields includes performing said server action using a portion of said ~~first user input~~ previously entered user data as user input for one of said plurality of fields without transmitting said portion of said ~~first user input~~ previously entered user data to said client machine.

27. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 24 wherein:
the step of receiving first user input for the template includes receiving user input that designates, for each of said plurality of fields, whether the field is editable; and
the step of performing said server action using said ~~first user input~~ previously entered user data as user input for one or more of said plurality of fields includes

using said ~~first user input~~ previously entered user data for the fields of said

plurality of fields that are not designated editable; and
sending to said client machine requests for user input for the fields of said
plurality of fields that are designated editable.